



# Recycling and Waste Reduction

KEEPING MILWAUKEE CLEAN AND GREEN

Fall 2009

City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works • [www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com) • 414-286-CITY (2489)

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## The Value of Recycling

IN COMPARING THE PER TON COST TO LANDFILL VERSUS THE PER TON REVENUE FROM RECYCLING

The fee for landfill disposal is around \$35 per ton whereas the average value of processed curbside recyclables is \$90 per ton.

**+\$90 PER TON**

RECYCLING REVENUE

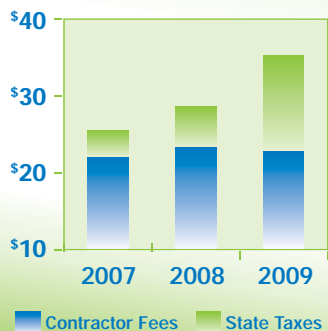
**-\$35 PER TON**

LANDFILL FEE

\*Commodity values fluctuate. The value above represents a 6-year average.

## Garbage Disposal Fees per Ton

(AS OF OCT. 1ST OF EACH YEAR)



**Disposal costs have increased significantly. Let's all pitch in to reduce the amount of garbage Milwaukee sends to the landfill!**

See "Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle For Good" for more details.

## Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle For Good

*Recycling & Waste Reduction are Good for the Environment and the Economy*



This fall, landfill rates will rise significantly due to a large increase in State-collected taxes. This means that the City of Milwaukee could pay an extra \$2 million in garbage disposal fees. "In these tough times, decreasing the amount of material that ultimately ends up in the landfill is something that everyone can do to help", said Mayor Tom Barrett.

Milwaukee residents already recycle about 50 million pounds of material each year, but an equal amount of recyclables are thrown away. For each ton of recyclables that are sent to a landfill, the City pays disposal fees and loses the opportunity to gain revenue from the sale of those materials. That's revenue that could help pay for essential services. Recycling also supports jobs and provides a source of raw materials to manufacturers. The more they can rely on recyclable materials as feedstock, the more money they can save on energy and raw material costs, resulting in lower prices for consumers. "Now more than ever, it is important for all of us to work together to reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost as much as we can to control costs and limit solid waste fee increases" said Rick Meyers, Recycling Specialist for the City of Milwaukee. "Recycling and waste reduction conserve resources, save landfill space, help to prevent pollution, and they are also important for a healthy economy", adds Meyers.

Recycle more and don't forget to reduce and reuse as much as possible! Forego disposable and purchase durable, multiple-use products. Be creative – find ways to reuse items be-

fore throwing them out; buy products with minimal (and recyclable) packaging; grind food waste in disposals and compost other kitchen scraps and yard waste at home. Help a neighbor in need by donating usable items to char-

ity; Goodwill, The Salvation Army, and St. Vincent de Paul are just a few examples. Use this and [www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com) as guides for identifying opportunities to reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as possible!

*The Recycle For Good campaign made its debut last fall and has since made appearances in the papers; on the city's recycling trucks; and even over the airwaves – both radio and TV. At the community level, neighborhood campaigns took the Recycle For Good message to community groups and residents. The goal is to increase recycling throughout the city due to the many benefits it has for our environment, the economy, and our communities. Recycling and waste reduction help to lower disposal costs, satisfy market demand for raw materials, conserve energy and natural resources, and reduce pollution. Visit [www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com) to find out more, and to take the recycling pledge today!*

## Frequently Asked Qs

**Do my recyclables end up in the landfill with everything else?**

**A:** No. All recyclable materials accepted in the program are sent to recycling markets. It is only the non-accepted items that are sorted out and sent to a landfill. When collection crews occasionally encounter a recycling cart with too much contamination (garbage or non-recyclables), they leave behind an orange tag and if not resorted by the resident, a fine is issued and a garbage truck is sent to collect it instead.

**Why can't Milwaukee recycle any other kinds of plastics, other than #1 & 2?**

**A:** Over 90% of household plastics are #1 and #2, and those are the valuable grades

for which there are many markets and strong demand. The City of Milwaukee only accepts #1 (PETE) and #2 (HDPE) plastics primarily because there currently are no reliable landfill alternatives for plastics numbered 3-7.

**Can plastic bags be recycled? What about bread bags and plastic packaging?**

**A:** Plastic shopping bags can be recycled, but they should NOT be included with household recyclables because they become tangled or wound in machinery at the recycling facility. The machinery is engineered for sorting rigid container plastics only. Plastic bag recycling options are increasing. A growing number of retailers in Wisconsin, such as supermarkets, retail stores and dry cleaners, voluntarily accept plastic bags for recycling. In some of these locations, you may also be able to recycle other types of plastic bags and film,

so check with the retailer to find out what is accepted.

The best option is to avoid using disposable shopping bags by instead using a reusable cloth bag or other reusable container. Reuse is also a good choice as many consumers reuse plastic bags as trash liners or pet waste bags. Find out more about plastic bag recycling by visiting the Wisconsin DNR website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us) - search for "plastic shopping bags".

**Why can't I recycle broken glasses or other glass materials with my glass bottles and jars?**

**A:** The manufacturing of different glass products such as drinking glasses, window glass, and ceramics or china requires the addition of ingredients that are considered contaminants in the glass recycling process. Additionally, these items may damage sorting equipment, which is engineered specifically for jars and containers.

Recycle For Good, Milwaukee!



[www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com)



CITY OF MILWAUKEE



# DISPOSAL FACT SHEET

Item	City Collection Recycling = ♻️ Compost = 🌿 Garbage = X	Drop off: City Self-Help Centers 6660 North Industrial Rd. 3879 W Lincoln Ave.	Drop off: Hazardous Waste Disposal Facilities See mmsd.com or call 225-2066	Other Alternatives/Notes
Aerosol Cans (empty)	♻️	♻️		
Aerosol Cans (full)			X	
Aluminum Cans	♻️	♻️		
Anti-freeze (used)		♻️	♻️	
Appliances		♻️		Check yellow pages, donate
Ashes (double bagged)	X	X		
Athletic Shoes (used)		♻️		Donate to charity
Auto Batteries		♻️		
Branches/Brush (less than 4 cu. yds.)	🌿	🌿		Curbside collection by request Mar. 1 - Dec. 1
Bug Sprays			X	
Christmas Trees	X	🌿		Jan. curb collection
Cleaners, Household (Toxic)			X	
Computers (up to 10 components)		♻️		Donate to charity
Construction Debris (2 cu. yds. or less)		X		Call 286-CITY for pickup. fee applies
Cardboard	♻️	♻️		
Dead Animals				Call 286-CITY for pickup
Foam Packaging	X	X		
Furniture	X	X		Donate to charity
Garage, Auto or Workshop Cleaners			X	
Garbage	X	X		
Garden Debris	🌿	🌿		Curbside collection: Oct 1 - Nov 15
Glass Jars & Bottles (any color)	♻️	♻️		
Glass, Window	X	X		
Grass Clippings		♻️		
Halloween Pumpkins	X	X		
Leaves	🌿	🌿		Curbside collection: Oct 1 - Nov 15
Lightbulbs, fluorescent			♻️	focusenergy.com: "residential programs", "lighting"
Magazines	♻️	♻️		
Microwaves		♻️		
Motor Oil & Filters (used)		♻️	♻️	
Mulch	🌿	🌿		Curbside collection: Oct 1 - Nov 15
Needles, Hypodermic (Sharps)				Pharmacy or call 286-3521
Newspaper	♻️	♻️		
Paint (oil based)			X	Donate to charity
Paint (water based/latex; must dry out first)	X	X		Donate to charity
Paper (mixed & junk mail)	♻️	♻️		
Paperboard (cereal boxes)	♻️	♻️		
Pesticide Containers (empty)	X	X		
Pesticide Containers (full)			X	
Pet Waste (double bagged)	X	X		
Phone Books	♻️	♻️		
Plastic Bottles (#1 & #2 ONLY)	♻️	♻️		
Propane or Gas Cylinders (empty)		♻️		Check yellow pages
Soda & Beer Cartons	♻️	♻️		
Steel/Metal		♻️		Recycling center
Steel/Aluminum Food Containers	♻️	♻️		
Televisions				Recycle: Best Buy, American TV & Appliance
Thermometers (w/ Mercury)			X	
Thermometers (w/o Mercury)	X	X		
Tires (5 max)		♻️		

Certain items, such as yard waste, hazardous waste and sharps may not be disposed of in your garbage cart. Use this fact sheet as a guide for how and where to recycle or safely dispose of a long list of items. Still have questions? Visit [www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com) for more information including a list of donation resources.



LET'S MAKE MILWAUKEE CLEAN & GREEN.

Please recycle these items:



- > Aluminum/steel cans & empty aerosol cans
- > Plastic bottles (#1 & #2 only) ♻️ ♻️
- > Glass jars & bottles (any color)
- > Phonebooks, newspapers & magazines, cardboard and paperboard, mixed paper & junk mail



Please empty and rinse all recyclable containers.

**DO NOT** place in recycling carts or bins any of the following:

window glass, light bulbs, ceramics or china, styrofoam, plastic bags, #3-7 or unmarked plastics, plastic bottles that contained motor oil or antifreeze, needles or "sharps," tissue paper or wax/foil/plastic lined paper or trash.

**Questions about what you can and cannot recycle?**

Call (414) 286-3500 anytime or (414) 286-CITY (2489)  
Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 4:45 PM.

Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (414) 286-2025

[MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://MilwaukeeRecycles.com)

## Recycling Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

Replacing those old, incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs or CFLs saves money on electricity bills, helps to conserve resources, and reduces pollution. This is because CFLs require up to 75% less energy, last up to 10 times longer, and can save \$30 or more in energy costs over the bulb's life

time when compared with the use of traditional incandescent bulbs. What should you do in the event that they actually burn out? Each CFL contains a small amount of mercury (less than you'll find in a watch battery), so you should make sure to recycle your burnt out bulbs to avoid releasing that mercury into the environment. CFL use has become increasingly common and many local retailers accept these bulbs for recycling. Visit [www.focusenergy.com](http://www.focusenergy.com), and select "Residential Programs" and "Lighting" for more information and to find a recycler near you.



Recycle For Good, Milwaukee!



[www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com)

## Home Composting - Keeping a Resource From Going to Waste

The U.S. EPA estimates that Americans throw away over a quarter of the food that we prepare each year, or 96 billion pounds! Not only is this organic material a resource that could be used to create compost, it is also made up of mostly water, making it heavy and expensive to dispose of.



Compost is a nutrient-rich soil amendment you can use to improve your lawn, garden, and houseplants. Save time and money by reducing the need for fertilizer use and watering. Anyone can learn to compost, and it can be done year round – a compost pile or bin are common outdoor methods, and vermicomposting, or worm composting, can be done indoors during the winter and colder months.

There are plenty of resources to help you get started. Compost bins can be purchased from some area retailers or from Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, which also offers composting workshops. Visit [www.kgmb.org](http://www.kgmb.org) for information on bins and workshop dates. For more information on composting visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov) and search for “compost”.



[www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com)

# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION



For Milwaukee County Residents ONLY

*You can help protect Lake Michigan by properly disposing household hazardous waste.*

*“You’re part of the solution.”*

*Mom & Dad*

*There’s a convenient location near you.*

### MILWAUKEE

City of Milwaukee Self Help Station  
3879 West Lincoln Avenue

Friday and Saturday 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### MENOMONEE FALLS

Veolia Environmental Services  
W124 N9451 Boundary Rd. (124th St.)

Monday and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### FRANKLIN

Veolia Environmental Services  
10518 South 124th Street

Tuesday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

More than 10 MILLION pounds collected!



To find out what you can and cannot bring, and maps for locations, please visit [www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com)



*Don't be the cat throwin' food scraps in the trash. Use your disposal instead.*

The average family of four generates 36 lbs. of food waste each week, or nearly 2,000 lbs. a year. Don't send your leftovers to a landfill. Grind them up and send them down the drain to MMSD to be recycled into energy and fertilizer – saving money for all of us.

### What can and cannot be put into a disposal?

The standard disposal can handle basic food scraps. However, avoid large amounts at one time. Newer disposals can grind much more, like bones, cornhusks, artichokes and celery.

#### Standard Garbage Disposal

- Everyday food scraps
- Vegetable peels (ok in small amounts)

#### Disposer With Advanced Grind Features

- Everyday food scraps
- Vegetable peels
- Celery, corn husks, artichokes and other fibrous material
- Bones, fruit pits and other hard materials



**NEVER** put fats, oils or grease down the drain. They can lead to basement backups, sewer overflows and expensive plumbing repair bills. Instead, pour grease into a container and throw it in the trash.

### How it pays to use your disposal:

Food waste fuels lower sewer bills. Food scraps produce methane gas that MMSD captures and turns into power to run our facilities. We also use food scraps to help make a fertilizer called Milorganite that's sold around the country.

- Food waste is mostly water, so it makes perfect sense to grind it up in a disposal and send it to our water reclamation facilities.
- Food disposals use less than 1% of a household's total water consumption and average less than 50¢ a year in electricity to operate. Commercial disposers use about 12¢ of electricity a day.

### Did you know?

- Last year more than 13 million tons of food scraps were sent to landfills in the U.S.
- Modern disposals grind food to less than 1/4 inch in size, so it's safe for household, restaurant and municipal pipes.
- When using a disposal, run cold water down the drain for several seconds afterward to flush food waste through the plumbing system and keep debris from settling in the pipes.



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### How does a disposal help the environment?

Using a disposal allows food waste – which is 70% water – to be ground up and sent through pipes to Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District – your local wastewater treatment facility. That keeps food scraps from being trucked to landfills where the waste decomposes and produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas linked to global warming.

At MMSD, we can capture the methane generated from food waste and turn it into energy, saving our customers nearly \$2 million a year. We also use food waste to help feed microscopic organisms used in wastewater treatment that we later turn into Milorganite—a fertilizer trusted by the pros for more than 80 years.

#### Do I need a special disposal or are all disposals good for the environment?

All disposals are environmentally responsible at disposing of food scraps, and there is no need to purchase a certain type of disposal. Disposals basically serve the same function, to grind food waste and send it down the drain. However, there are different models on the market—some basic, functional models you can't grind any and all kinds of food waste. However, the more technologically advanced models can grind virtually any food waste to extremely fine particles, so you never have to worry about what can or can't be put in your disposer.

#### Are disposals safe to use, especially with children in the household?

There is a common misconception that disposals have blades. Not true—when food waste enters the grind chamber, blunt lugs throw it against a rotating shredder plate - similar to a cheese grater - grinding it into fine particles that are flushed down the drain. But, if reassurance is what you want, look for a "batch feed" unit—the disposer starts only when a special cover is in place.



[www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com)

Recycle For Good, Milwaukee!



[www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com)

# Self-Help Centers Offer Convenient Recycling & Safe Disposal Options

Do you recycle more than you can fit in your recycling bin or cart? Not sure what to do with a broken microwave? The City of Milwaukee operates two Self Help Centers where Milwaukee residents can recycle and safely dispose of numerous items.

They are located at:

**North side: 6660 N Industrial Rd**

**South side: 3879 W Lincoln Ave**

For hours and more information, please visit [www.mpw.net/Pages/selfhelp.htm](http://www.mpw.net/Pages/selfhelp.htm).

**Self Help Centers will be closed:**

Thanksgiving, Nov. 26; Christmas, Dec. 24-25; New Year's, Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 2010.

**Proof of City of Milwaukee residency or property ownership is required.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Dumping after hours is illegal and will result in a fine.**

## ACCEPTED ITEMS

### RECYCLED

- Used motor oil and oil filters
- Used antifreeze
- Automotive batteries
- Computers (up to 10 components)
- Appliances
- Scrap metal
- Tires (up to 5 passenger tires)
- Corrugated cardboard
- Concrete
- Athletic shoes
- Recyclables (cans, jars and bottles of metal, glass, and #1 & #2 plastics; newspaper, magazines, paperback & phonebooks, paperboard, junk mail)

### COMPOSTED

- Brush
- Grass clippings
- Leaves and garden debris

### LANDFILLED

- Garbage
- Old furniture
- Up to 2 yards of construction or remodeling debris



DPW held a one day electronics recycling collection event in March. The event was sponsored by Samsung and was overwhelmingly successful, resulting in the collection of over 248,000 pounds of electronics.

## Safe Disposal of Sharps

Do not place sharps such as needles, syringes, or lancets in the garbage or recycling carts! Improper disposal of sharps poses a significant health risk to sanitation workers or others who may come into contact with your garbage who could be stuck by contaminated needles. Dispose of sharps by taking them to a registered sharps collection station.



For more information on sharps and household disposal including a list of collection stations, visit <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/> and search for "sharps".

## Electronics Collection - A Turning Point

This winter, look for changes to DPW's electronics recycling program. Depending on proposed State legislation, the collection of computer electronics at the Self Help Centers will either be expanded or discontinued. If the bill the recycling community supports passes, the program will be expanded to include TVs and other items not currently accepted. Check the DPW's website in early 2010 for updates on these program changes.

## Christmas Trees

Bring your Christmas tree to a Self-Help Center and it will be ground into mulch or made into compost! Remove all decorations and wires first. Otherwise, you can dispose of your Christmas tree by placing it at the curb if you have curbside garbage collection or alley if you have alley collection.



**City of Milwaukee**  
**Department of Public Works**  
 841 N. Broadway, Rm 620  
 Milwaukee WI, 53202

PRSRT STD  
 US POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Milwaukee, WI  
 Permit No. 1861

## RECYCLE FOR GOOD



Contact the DPW Call Center at (414) 286-CITY (2489) for all your Environmental Services concerns. Thanks for keeping it Clean & Green!  
 -Mayor Tom Barrett

### NO GARBAGE OR RECYCLING COLLECTION ON THESE CITY HOLIDAYS:

- **THANKSGIVING:** November 26-27, 2009
- **NEW YEAR'S:** December 31, 2009- January 1, 2010
- **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY:** January 18, 2010
- **CHRISTMAS:** December 24 & 25, 2009
- **GOOD FRIDAY:** April 2, 2010

## Fall/Winter Garbage and Recycling Collection

Garbage and recycling collection schedules will change in the winter due to the holidays and to the management of snow and ice by City crews. Schedule changes begin Monday, November 30, 2009.



### If you have curbside collection:

- Carts will be retrieved from yards during the winter months.
- Extra items must still be placed curbside for pick up.
- Residents must clear snow and ice to provide accessible path to carts.

### If you have alley collection:

- Carts will continue to be serviced at the alley line.

**Note:** There is a \$50 charge for collection of trash piles larger than four cubic yards. (For example, 6'x6'x3'.)

## Leaves & Brush 2009

Leaves and brush are collected separately from garbage and composted, conserving natural resources while saving the City money. To request collection of brush piles from March through No-

vember, you must call 286-CITY (2489) There is no brush collection during the months of December, January or February. The City will not pick up brush piles that are larger than 4 cubic yards.

- Keep leaves away from storm drains in the street
- Keep piles away from sewer grates
- Place garden debris in leaf piles

- Do not put leaves in plastic bags
- Do not put brush in the street
- Do not put leaves in your garbage carts

**Fall leaf collection begins October 19th. You may rake leaves into the street between October 1st and November 15th**



Recycle For Good, Milwaukee!



[www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com](http://www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com)